

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0382

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, LU

SUBJ: ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP - PROPOSED INTEGRATED
EMERGENCY PACKAGE

REF: A) STATE 124240, B) STATE 124888

1. ECON OFFICER PRESENTED IEP DISCUSSION PAPER JUNE 12
TO CHARLES REICHLING, MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND LUXEMBOURG DELEGATE TO ECG, AND
FOLLOWED UP WITH VISIT JUNE 14 TO INFORM HIM OF US
INVITATION TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE
DRAFT INTEGRATED ENERGY PROGRAM (REF B).

2. REICHLING, WHO KNEW OF US BILATERAL MEETINGS
ARRANGED WITH OTHER ECG REPS, EXPRESSED GOL APPRECIATION
FOR INVITATION TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BUT WAS
SORRY THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT SINCE HE WOULD ARRIVE IN
BRUSSELS MONDAY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE ECG MEETING AND
ALREADY HAS A LUCHEON APPOINTMENT WITH HIS BELGIAN
COLLEAGUES. SINCE THE GOL COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH
BELGIUM ON ALL ENERGY MATTERS AND SINCE ASSISTANT
SECRETARY ENDERS IS MEETING WITH DAVIGNON ON SUNDAY,
REICHLING THOUGHT LITTLE WOULD BE LOST BY HIS INABILITY
TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS SOONER.

3. REICHLING THOUGHT THAT THE US DISCUSSION PAPER WAS
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AN EXCELLENT BEGINNING AND SAID THAT THE TASK WAS

NOW TO FLESH IT OUT AND PUT IT INTO FORCE. REICHLING STATED THAT THE GOL PREFERS THE STRICT, AUTOMATIC CRITERIA FOR THE TRIGGERING OF ACTIONS (CONSUMPTION RESTRAINTS, INTERNATIONAL ALLOCATION) ENVISAGED IN THE PAPER.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITY, REICHLING WONDERED IF IT WAS FAIR TO REQUIRE THE MORE VULNERABLE COUNTRIES TO TAKE "COORESPONDINGLY GREATER EFFORTS" SINCE THIS, IN THE CASE OF LUXEMBOURG, COULD MEAN GREATER RELATIVE EXPENDITURES FOR STOCKPILING. IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE, HE ADDED, TO APPLY MORE STRICT RULES FOR SOME COUNTRIES WHEN THE OBJECT OF ECG EXERCISE IS SOLIDARITY AMONG CONSUMING NATIONS. REICHLING STATED THAT THE CONCEPT OF VULNERABILITY WAS AN AREA THAT ALSO NEEDED FURTHER ELABORATION. SHOULD VULNERABILITY BE DEFINED IN TERMS OF LACK OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN RELATION TO NEEDS OR IN TERMS OF POLITICAL VULNERABILITY TO A REDUCTION OF SUPPLIES (FOR EXAMPLE TO THE DUTCH), DISTANCE FROM SOURCES OF SUPPLY OR OCEAN TRANSPORT (LUXEMBOURG) OR SOME COMBINATION OF THESE CRITERIA AND OTHERS?

5. REICHLING COMMENTED THAT PAPER CONTRADICTED HIS PREVIOUS IMPRESSION THAT THE US HAD BECOME LESS INTERESTED IN PUSHING FOR AN OVERALL ENERGY PACKAGE. IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE US WAS NO LONGER AS EAGER FOR A CONCERNED APPROACH TO THE ENERGY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE US RECENT SUCCESS IN OBTAINING AN AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA. ECON OFFICER REPLIED THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THE US DESIRE FOR A COOPERATIVE ENERGY PROGRAM REMAINED AS THE US HAD OUTLINED AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AND THAT THE DISCUSSION PAPER ON A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED EMERGENCY PROGRAM WAS EVIDENCE OF THIS CONTINUING INTEREST.

6. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DEPARTMENT'S QUICK RESPONSE (REFTEL B) IN ADDING GOL TO THOSE INVITED FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. AS WE EXPECTED MIGHT HAPPEN, REICHLING WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT OUR OFFER BUT SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN COOPERATING WITH OUR EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.
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